

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of August 28, 2006 and in particular to the election requirement set forth therein.

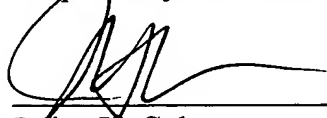
Specifically, the Examiner has found two independent or distinct species designated as Invention A and Invention B. The Examiner contends that the inventions A and B are unrelated inventions. In fact the inventions are quite closely related insofar that they both contain the same identical structure with the exception that Invention B contains an additional cladding layer. Accordingly, the election requirement is respectfully traversed.

In order to respond to the requirement notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant elects Invention A inclusive of Claims 1-3 and 5-11. Since Claim 1 includes all of the structure of Claim 12 drawn to the non-elected Invention B, it is deemed generic thereto and upon allowance of Claim 1 the consideration of the species of Claim 12 is warranted under 37 CFR 1.121.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 and new Claim 23 are linking claims between the four layer embodiment of species A and the five layer embodiment of species B. Accordingly, upon allowance of Claim 11 and/or 23 consideration of Claim 12 on its merits along with its dependent claims is warranted.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner proceed with the examination of this application on the basis of the above remarks.

Respectfully submitted,



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